



The Voice of Montana's DUI Victims

Exhibit No. 2Date: 3-7-17Bill No. SB 280

Driving Under the Influence Kills!

Interlocks Save Lives

SUPPORT SB 280

THE PROBLEMS

- Limited access to public transportation in Montana makes life tough if you can't drive. It is difficult to comply with license suspension or revocation.
- One night in jail keeps the offender from driving home that night. But the most effective way to prevent future impaired driving is through monitoring and treatment. There are several excellent strategies for this such as DUI courts and the 24/7 sobriety program. 24/7 is currently required for 2nd or subsequent DUI convictions. But for the first DUI (even if it is aggravated) there is no required monitoring or treatment.
- Underage drivers have minimal consequences for DUI—a small fine and education.
- The current statutory provision for vehicle forfeiture (vehicles owned by offender) is seldom used.

SOLUTIONS

- Ignition interlock is the least expensive monitoring strategy. The offender pays less than \$100 per month and doesn't have to drive to a testing place twice per day. This is currently underutilized in Montana. New technology and new provider rules (proposed by the DOJ) make interlock even more effective.
- Interlock has the best research support. States which implemented mandatory interlock for all DUI offenders have shown dramatic reduction in DUI related fatalities.
- A restricted interlock license keeps people driving legally [and soberly].
- Target vehicles for forfeiture which are used in the crime. Use revenue to support indigent offenders.

FISCAL NOTE

- There will be an increase in revenue from fines for violation of interlock restricted license. The current fine is ZERO dollars to \$500. Proposed fine is \$300-\$1000. There may be more violations since more drivers will have interlock restricted licenses which will further increase the revenue.
- Seizure and forfeiture is a source of revenue, not an expense. This doesn't change the process already in statute; it only changes the target from vehicles owned to vehicle driven by the offender.
- Proposed amendment will correct the oversight regarding reinstatement fees.

The Montana Common Sense Coalition is made up of volunteers and receives no public funding to support its education efforts. www.MontanaCSC.org

Rebecca Sturdevant, Harlowton, MT 406-250-1250